has been reported in some parts of the Country. As per the reports received upto 31-7-1984, there have been 4,69,285 cases of malaria against 4,31,563 cases reported during the corresponding period of last year. The rise in the incidence of malaria has been reported from some districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the Union Territory of Delhi.

2. The steps taken to control and contain malaria include spraying of insecticidies surveillance to detect cases, collection of blood smears, distribution of antimalarial drugs, a special programme for the containment of P. Falciparum and providing Malathion 25 per cent WDP on the basis of 100 per cent central assistance to States with established vector resistance.

Increase in Gujarat's quota of edible oils

*249. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enhance Gujarat's quota of edible oils for the rest of the current year in view of the proposed increase in imports thereof and the repeated demands from various quarters from that State; and

(b) whether Government are aware that large quantities of oil find their way into the black market; if so, what preventive measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from the Government of Gujarat for enhancement of the allocation of imported edible oils to that State. As the allocation of imported edible oils is made by the Central Government on a month to month basis, these requests will be kept in view while making the allocation for the months of September and October, 1984.

(b) No, Sir. The Central Government allocates imported edible oils to State Governments for issue through fair price shops. Thus, the actual distribution of oils to consumers is the responsibility of the State Governments. In order to curb blackmarketing in essential commodities including imported edible oils, the State Governments have been armed with wide powers under Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 to deal with such offenders. The penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 have also been made more stringent with the enactment of the 1981 Act. This amending Act *inter-alia* provides for summary trials of offenders for violation of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Instructions have also been given to States for taking action against blackmarketeers and hoarders.

Incidence of Leprosy in the Country

*250. SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to combat spread of leprosy in the country;

(b) the number of leprosy patients identified in the country so far; and

(c) the funds allotted for anti-leprosy measures during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) The combat the spread of Leprosy, Government have launched the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. The main thrust of the programme is early detection and regular treatment of Leprosy patients through a network of treatment centres.